

## Message Text

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ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 ONY-00 /009 W

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P 231630Z JUL 76

FM AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6036

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE NOUAKCHOTT 1768

FOR AF/W ONLY

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: AFSP, MR

SUBJECT: EMBASSY COMMENTS ON INSPECTION REPORTS

REF: BISHOP/AMBASSADOR O-I LETTER DATED JULY 6

1. INTRODUCTORY COMMENTS LISTED UNDER HEADINGS POLICY, ORGANIZATION AND MANAGEMENT, SUBSTANTIVE WORK, CULTURAL AFFAIRS, AND PERFORMANCE EVALUATION REPRESENT FAIRLY SITUATION AT EMBASSY IN NOUAKCHOTT. RECENT CHANGES IN AID STAFF AND NOMINATION OF PC DIRECTOR (IF IN FACT HE EVER GETS TO NOUAKCHOTT) SHOULD GO LONG WAY TOWARDS RESOLVING TWO OF MTO PRESSING PROBLEMS FACING MISSION.

2. SEVERAL COMMENTS ARE IN ORDER ON THOSE PARTS OF REPORT DEALING WITH ADMINISTRATIVE AFFAIRS.

(A) BUDGET AND FISCAL: INSEPECTORS LEFT SIX INFORMALCNECOM- MENDATIONS CONCERNING B& F OPERATIONS AT POST. ALL OF THESE RECOMMENDATIONS WERE SUBSEQUENTLY IMPLEMENTED. RBFO ROVING CASHIER RECENTLY SPENT TWO WEEKS IN NOUAKCHOTT FOR PURPOSE OF TRAINING OUR NEWLY-HIRED CLAS B CASHIER. ON THIS OCCASION, ROVER ALSO PROVIDED GUIDANCE RELEVANT TO IMPLEMENTATION OF INFORMAL RECOMMENDATIONS.

(B) GENERAL SERVICES: THREE INFORMAL RECOMMENDATIONS WERE MADE BY INSPECTORS. ONE (PROPER NUMBERING OF LIMITED OFFICIAL USE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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EMBASSY LEASES AND CONTRACTS) IS BEING COMPLIED WITH. SECOND RECOMMENDATION (MAINTENANCE OF MINIMUM/MAXIUM

STOCK LEVELS FOR EXPENDABLE SUPPLIES) IS UNDER WAY BUT NOT YET COMPLETED. THIRD (COMPLETION OF RESIDENTIAL INVENTORY) HAS NOT YET BEEN DONE. SECOND AND THIRD RECOMMENDATIONS WILL BE COMPLIED WITH AS SOON AS GSO POSITION IS FILLED.

(C) SECURITY: COMPOUND WALL QUESTION IS ADDRESSED BELOW IN SECTION ON FORMAL RECOMMENDATIONS. WE WISH TO CLARIFY, HOWEVER, THAT FBO REPRESENTATIVE (JIM KARR FROM DAKAR) HAS ALREADY REVIEWED SITUATION AT COMPOUND AND MADE APPROPRIATE RECOMMENDATIONS. WHILE WE BELIEVE VISIT BY SPECIFIC ARCHITECT/ENGINEER RESPONSIBLE FOR ACTUAL DESIGN OF WALL MIGHT WELL PROFIT FROM VISIT OF SITE, WHAT WE NEED IS FINAL DESIGN AND DETAILED SEPCS TO PERMIT US TO GET STARTED ASAP, ALBEIT 12 MONTHS LATE.

(D) REAL ESTATE: VIRTUALLY NO PROGRESS HAS BEEN MADE ON MISSION REQUEST TO CONSTRUCT ADDITIONAL STAFF HOUSING GSO COMPLEX, AND AID OFFICE ON COMPOUND. GSO COMPLEX AND AID OFFICE SPACE HAVE BEEN DISCUSSED WITH DAVID SHEAR (AID/W), WHO SUGGESTED THAT AID MIGHT BE ABLE TO FUND PART IF NOT ALL COSTS INVOLVED. WE URGE DEPARTMENT TO PURSUE POSSIBILITY OF THIS FUNDING BY AID AND, TOGETHER WITH WHATEVER FBO CAN PROVIDE, MOVE AHEAD ON THESE TWO PROJECTS ASAP. REDSO IN ABIDJAN SENT A TDY ENGINEER TONUAKCHOTT TO PREPARE SOME PRELIMINARY DRAWINGS. ASSUMING FBO IS ABLE TO MAKE AVAILABLE MINOR IMPROVEMENT FUNDS FOR STEP-BY-STEP INCREMENTAL CONSTRUCTION OF GSO COMPLEX, (AS PROPOSED IN JULY 1975 "EIGHT YEAR CONSTRUCTION PROGRAM"), FBO SHOULD SEARCH OUT SOME WAY TO TAKE ACTIVE ROLE IN PLANNING PROCESS. EMBASSY IS FIRMLY CONVICTED OF NECESSITY FOR ADDITIONAL STAFF HOUSING ON COMPOUND AND URGES FBO TO PROCEED WITH FUNDING OF THIS CONSTRUCTION PROJECT. DESPITE INSPECTORS' LUKEWARM ENDORSEMENT, WE BELIEVE ALL THREE PROJECTS ARE (1) CRITICALLY IMPORTANT AND (2) URGENT.

3. OUR COMMENTS ON FORMAL RECOMMENDATIONS ARE KEYED TO INSPECTION REPORT: (1) WHEN INSPECTORS MADE RECOMMENDATION THAT NOUAKCHOTT BEGIN PREPARING ECONOMIC TRENDS LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
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REPORT AS PART OF CERP REQUIREMENT. THEY LOOKED ONLY AT BENEFITS AND NOT AT COSTS INVOLVED. EMBASSY WOULD LIKE TO DO MANY THINGS THAT IT DOES NOT NOW HAVE MANNOW FOR DOING. TO DRAFT COMPLETE AND VALID ECONOMIC TRENDS REPORT FOR MAURITANIA WILL REQUIRE APPROXIMATELY ONE MAN-WEEK OF WORK. REPORT HAS NEVER BEEN DONE BEFORE HERE; THUS IT IS NOT POSSIBLE TO UPDATE PREVIOUS REPORT. CURRENT ECONOMIC DATA FOR MAURITANIA ARE WOEFULLY LACKING. MAN-WEEK SPENT ON ECONOMIC TRENDS REPORT MUST NECESSARILY BE TIME SUBTRACTED FROM OTHER PROJECTS NOW BEING DONE BY

EMEBASSY. (VERY TIGHT STAFFING OF THIS MISSION DOES NOT ALLOW FOR SLACK OR FREE TIME. IN ADDITION, TRENDS REPORT WOULD HAVE TO BE PREPARED BY ONE OF TWO SENIOR OFFICERS IN STATE CONTINGENT. INSPECTORS THEMSELVES NOTED AMB AND DCM ARE ALREADY FULLY OCCUPIED, AND STRONGLY RECOMMENDED DEPARTMENT INSURE ASSIGNMENT OF EXPERIENCED FSO-5 TO SUPPORT THEM IN FUTURE.) IF WASHINGTON BELIEVES THAT ECONOMIC TRENDS REPORT IS SUFFICIENTLY IMPORTANT SO THAT IT SHOULD TAKE PRECEDENCE OVER CERTAIN OTHER EMBASSY ACTIVITIES, WE WILL BE HAPPY TO COMPLY WITH REQUEST. BUT AT TIME WHEN REPORTING AND ACTION REQUIREMENTS FOR STATE DEPT. CONTINGENT OFHQMISSION ARE GROWING, DEPARTMENT CANNOT REASONABLY CONTINUE TO LEVY ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS WITHOUT INCREASING SUBSTANTIVE STAFF OR ELIMINATING PREVIOUS REQUIREMENTS.

(2) MISSION CONCURS WITH THIS RECOMMENDATION, PARTICULARLY AS AMERICAN PRESENCE IN MAURITANIA GROWS AND CONSULAR DUTIES INCREASE.

(3) FULLY CONCUR THAT JUNIOR REPORTING OFFICER SLOT SHOULD BE FILLED BY EXPERIENCED OFFICER RATHER THAN NEW OR PRACTICALLY NEW OFFICER. TIGHT STAFFING SITUATION IN NOUAKCHOTT DOES NOT PERMIT ENOUGH TIME TO TRAIN NEW OFFICER.

(4) AGREE COMPLETELY WITH RECOMMENDATION. OFFICER IN CHARGE OF CU PROGRAM COULD USEFULLY RECEIVE FULL-DAY BRIEFING ON ALL ASPECTS OF CU PROGRAM, PARTICULARLY IF NOUAKCHOTT POSTING IS FIRST ASSIGNMENT WHERE OFFICER WILL BE HANDLING CU MATTERS. BRIEFING SHOULD ALSO INCLUDE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
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DETAILED ADVICE ON HANDLING OF PAPERWORK AND ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS RELATED TO CU PROGRAM.

(5) WE ARE PUZZLED BY THIS RECOMMENDATION. ON NUMEROUS OCCASIONS EMBASSY HAS URGED DEPARTMENT TO MOVE FORWARD ON TWO OUTSTANDING SECURITY PROJECTS -- COMPOUND WALL AND PERIMETER LIGHTING -- THAT HAVE BEEN PENDING SINCE RSO SURVEY IN JULY 1975. NECESSITY FOR URGENT ACTION ON THIS SITUATION WAS BROUGHT TO DEPARTMENT'S ATTENTION IN FOLLOWING CABLES: 75 NOUAKCHOTT 1375, 75 NOUAKCHOTT 1565, 17 NOUAKCHOTT 1832, 75 NOUAKCHOTT 2194 NOUAKCHOTT 350, NOUAKCHOTT 660, AND NOUAKCHOTT 1382. ANY PRESSURE THAT CAN BE PUT ON RELEVANT DEPARTMENT OFFICES TO IMPLEMENT THESE PROJECTS ON SPEEDY BASIS WOULD BE MUCH APPRECIATED.

(6) AS NOTED IN PARA (5) ABOVE, MISSION WOULD WELCOME QUICK ACTION ON COMPOUND WALL AND PERIMETER LIGHTING

PROJECTS BY AF/EX, SY AND A/FBO.

(7) THIS RECOMMENDATION RELATES TO BOTH (5) AND (6) ABOVE. IT IS OUR FDQSTANDING THAT PLAN FOR NEW COMPOUND WALL IS UNDER PREPARATION IN WASHINGTON. WE ARE NOT IN POSITION TO SAY AT THIS STAGE OF PREPARATION WHETHER SPECIAL TRIP TO NGUJDCHOTT BY A/FBO REPRESENTATIVE IS REQUIRED IN ORDER TO FINISH PLANS. PLE WOULD WELCOME VISIT BY A/FBO REPRESENTATIVE BUT, AT SAME TIME, DO NOT WISH TO SECOND PROPOSAL FOR WHAT MAY BE EXPENSIVE AND UNNECESSARY VISIT. IN ANY EVENT, WE TRUST PLANS FOR COMPOUND WALL HAVE EITHER BEEN COMPLETED OR WILL BE COMPLETED SOON.

4. ONLY GENERAL RECOMMENDATIONS ON WHICH WE WISH TO COMMENT CONCERN OPERATION OF WACASC. OUR THOUGHTS ON THIS SUBJECT WERE SPELLED OUT FULLY IN NOUAKCHOTT 1616.

HANDYSIDE

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## Message Attributes

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**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** n/a  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 23 JUL 1976  
**Decaption Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Decaption Note:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** ShawDG  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
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**Disposition Remarks:**  
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**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
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**Reference:** n/a  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** ShawDG  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 25 JUN 2004  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <25 JUN 2004 by izenbei0>; APPROVED <12 OCT 2004 by ShawDG>  
**Review Markings:**

Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
04 MAY 2006

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** EMBASSY COMMENTS ON INSPECTION REPORTS  
**TAGS:** AFSP, MR  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006